

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING ~ 5:30 P.M.**

**Call To Order:** Leo Paul, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Also present were Martha Bernstein, Ernest Bunnell, Jack Healy and William Dranginis.

**Approval of Minutes**

**a) Regular 1/15/08: Motion:** J. Healy moved and W. Dranginis seconded a motion to adopt the regular meeting minutes of January 15, 2008. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**b) Special 1/31/08 Budget Workshop: Motion:** J. Healy moved to adopt the special budget workshop minutes of January 31, 2008 and E. Bunnell seconded. All voted aye except W. Dranginis, who abstained because of absence. Motion carried.

**c) Special 2/1/08: Motion:** J. Healy moved to adopt the special meeting minutes of February 1, 2008 and E. Bunnell seconded. All voted aye except W. Dranginis, who abstained because of absence. Motion carried.

**Public Requests/Comments:** Alan Landau spoke about a Board of Ethics meeting held in January. He reported the Board found no violations in Thomas D. Williams' claim against the Board of Zoning Appeals, and the claim has been dismissed. He also stated that standard operating procedures need to be reviewed to insure a proper and just due process. He also asked the First Selectman's office to formulate protocol procedures for meetings held at the Town Hall. The Ethics Board has used the First Selectman's office in the past and requests its use for future Ethics Board meetings, as they were forced to use the hallway for their recent hearing.

Winnie Harrison spoke about her letter referred to below under Correspondence and also passed out a letter from Betsy Glassman. She alluded to sneaky goings on after the January 17<sup>th</sup> School Building Committee's meeting regarding ignoring BOE Chairman Jim Katzin's request for FF&E money and unanimously approved giving \$141,500 to the architect for additional services after coming out of executive session. Further, \$94,805 was taken out of FF&E to pay for that, and the balance was taken from the LIS contingency. She wanted to know what that money was for.

**Selectmen's Requests:** In the First Selectman's report, L. Paul shared his participation at the COST Town Meeting regarding legislative priorities. He left the written report in the read file for the selectmen's perusal.

W. Dranginis suggested discussing moving the selectmen's meetings to larger venues throughout the town. He also pointed out, in response to Mr. Landau's comments, that there is a history of allowing other boards and commissions to hold meetings in the First Selectman's office.

E. Bunnell thanked Leo Paul for his donation to the Fire Company. Also, he asked about the progress of the website, hoping this would be a good tool for open government. L. Paul said the IT group is working on it, but he would have to check on progress. W. Dranginis suggested Doug Parker as a resource. M. Bernstein said that forms could be added and downloaded for the public's convenience.

M. Bernstein asked how procedures and protocols are enacted. L. Paul responded by saying the daily processes and protocol of the departments is not part of the Ethics Board's work. There have been no ethics complaints on business procedure in the Land Use Department. J. Healy said certain regulations are under State Statutes and the departments have to follow that protocol.

**Northfield Firehouse Update:** W. Dranginis said the Committee addressed 20 or more issues. There seems to be a major discrepancy between what the architect is charging (approximately \$100,000) and what the Committee thinks is owed. He cited a letter from the architect saying there was an agreement made between A. Cahill and the First Selectman that Schoenhardt would continue to project on the project starting January 2007 at an hourly rate. He said neither the Building Committee nor the Oversight

Committee were aware of any agreement. L. Paul said the Oversight Committee did know and advised Mr. Dranginis to talk to the members. Bill then mentioned a minor issue involving the charges for the last year which total \$12,000 or \$13,000 with a budget of \$5,000. He thought the charges were for services already paid for, and they will look into it. L. Paul said he met today with two members of the Building Committee and the Finance Department to discuss the charges. They will work with Angela Cahill at Schoenhardt toward a solution. W. Dranginis said he could not attend the next meeting Wednesday, but L. Paul said he would be there.

**School Building Committee Update – Jack Healy:** J. Healy said the construction is done and they are punch listing. O & G does this and submits to the architect, then the architect does their punch list. One more set of change order requests are left. By the February meeting most of the change orders will be processed and they will have more up-to-date figures on contingency and FF&E. The Board of Education has given them a prioritized list of items they need, top ones being FF&E (they want \$300,000) and the parking lot. The Building Committee is getting bids on the construction of the parking lot. They also authorized a payment of \$141,000 to H. S. Newman for additional services and for extension of the contract from Nov. 2, 2007 to Nov. 2, 2008. The provisions in the addendum call for progressive payments.

**Town Hall Building Committee Update:** J. Healy said the Committee is putting information together to hold public sessions for feedback based on the conceptual drawings. They will then go to the Board of Selectmen with the final report. Bill Buckley is finding out if the State has any interest in selling the building that houses the jail. W. Dranginis repeated his desire for a second plan as a back-up, and J. Healy said he would take that suggestion back to the Committee.

**Resignations:** None

**Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments**

**a) Interview Kay Carroll for Economic Development Commission, alternate member:** Ms Carroll said she and her husband came to Litchfield in 1999 and bought a farm on East Chestnut Hill and are farming. She had previously worked for a large corporation and then started her own consulting business. She has been a volunteer in any community she has lived in. She is working with Doug Parker on the Northwest EDC Strategic Plan. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to appoint Ms Carroll as above for term expiring 6/2008. E. Bunnell seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**b) Interview David E. Dean for Economic Development Commission, alternate member:** Mr. Dean was not present. **Motion:** M. Bernstein moved to table this item until the next meeting, and W. Dranginis seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**c) Reappoint Elisa Bauer to Social Services Board, Term Expiration 2/2011: Motion:** J. Healy moved to reappoint Elisa Bauer to the Social Services Board and L. Paul seconded. M. Bernstein said she has serious reservations about this reappointment. She said it was an unwise appointment because 1) she does not meet the requirement of having a background in the caring professions, 2) she and the Social Service Coordinator are members of the same labor union, 3) she is on other volunteer boards and we should be recruiting new people instead of using the same talent over and over. L. Paul said he saw no conflict with her serving on the Social Services Board and being a member of the same bargaining unit, as this board has no supervisory control. He said she is a good volunteer who he supports for reappointment. He also said in reviewing the bylaws, he is going to ask the Board to remove that requirement of being in the caring professions, as he feels it is not necessary and is discriminatory. J. Healy mentioned that when Ms Bauer interviewed she was caring for her elderly relatives and was familiar with services for the elderly, and that impressed him. He does not want to reject a volunteer if they are doing a good job. M. Bernstein hopes that in the future the Selectmen will be more proactive and look farther for candidates so there are not people serving on three or four boards. **Vote:** Upon voting J. Healy and L. Paul voted aye, W. Dranginis voted nay, M. Bernstein and E. Bunnell abstained. Motion carried.

**d) Reappoint Emmy Coley to Social Services Board, Term Expiration 2/2011**

**e) Reappoint Janet M. Petricone to Recycling Committee, Term Expiration 2/2011**

**f) Reappoint Colleen Murphy to Recycling Committee, Term Expiration 2/2011**

**g) Reappoint Michael W. Dunn to Pension Commission, Term Expiration 2/2011**

**h) Reappoint Margaret Perusse to Pension Commission, Term Expiration 2/2011**

**i) Reappoint Joseph H. Privitera to Beautification Commission, Term Expiration 2/2011**

**Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to reappoint d) through i) above and J. Healy seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**j) Appoint Rachel Carley to Regular Member, Conservation Commission, Term Expiration 12/2010:**

**Motion:** E. Bunnell moved to appoint Ms Carley as above, and W. Dranginis seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes:** 1/24/08 Town Hall Building Committee minutes; 2/6/08 BOE agenda; 12/12/07 & 1/16/08 BOE minutes; 12/20/07 Special BOE minutes; 12/12/07 Inland Wetlands Commission minutes; 1/30/08 Economic Development Commission minutes

**Vacancies:** The list of current appointed vacancies is as follows:

Bantam Lake Authority: One member, 12/2008  
Bantam District Committee: Three members, two 3/2007, 1 3/2007  
Beautification Commission: One regular member, 2/2008  
Capital Improvements Committee: One member 11/2007  
Conservation Commission: One alternate member 12/2009  
Economic Development Commission: One alternate member 3/2008  
Board of Ethics: One regular member 6/2008 and two alternate members 6/2007, 6/2008  
Inland Wetlands Commission: One regular member, 6/2008; one alternate 6/2008  
Litchfield Housing Authority: One member, 8/2011  
Litchfield Housing Partnership: Six regular members, indefinite term  
Litchfield Prevention Council: Five regular members: one 6/2007, three 6/2008, one 6/2006 and four alternate members: two 6/2007, and two 6/2008  
Milton Historic District Commission: 3 regular members, 1/2011, 1/2012, 1/2013  
Northwest Regional Tourism District: 1 member, 9/2009  
Northwest Regional Transit District: 1 alternate member 5/2010  
Northwest Regional Mental Health Board, Catchment Area council #22: One member, 5/2009  
Pension Committee: Two alternate members, both 3/2010  
Recycling Committee: Three regular members, two 2/2009, one 2/2008  
Sandy Beach Commission: Two regular members, 12/2006  
Town Hall Building Committee: Two alternate members 10/09  
Veteran's Advisory Committee: Two regular members; one 8/2009, one 8/2007; Two alternate members 8/2009  
Water Pollution Control Authority: Two alternate members; 1/2010, 1/2011

**Tax Refunds:** Three Refunds, Total of \$142.98 – **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to approve the three tax refunds for a total of \$142.98. E. Bunnell seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Transfers:** None

**Old Business:** a) **Approve 2008/2009 Budget:** L. Paul said there has been one change. Litchfield County Dispatch was planning no increase, so as the town had anticipated an \$8,000 increase, he removed \$5,495 to bring it under 3%. That leaves \$3,000 available in E-911 if needed. **Motion:** J. Healy moved to adopt the 2008/2009 budget as presented, and W. Dranginis seconded. M. Bernstein said that budgets she has been involved in include a planning phase as well as a budgeting phase. She asked if the departments consider their goals in projecting their budgets and also if the Selectmen could be informed earlier on in the process. J. Healy agreed. L. Paul said it could help the Selectmen understand the detail on the reports. In order to get in on the earlier stages of budget discussion, L. Paul warned that it might be difficult to accommodate the Selectmen's schedules, as it is already hard to schedule the final budget meetings. **Amendment:** W. Dranginis moved to eliminate the line item for the Public Works Director. E. Bunnell seconded. W. Dranginis said the position and the way it's structured is a waste of \$100,000. Perhaps after Jim Koser retires the Board can look at alternatives for restructuring the management. J. Healy argued that the position is needed to watch over the maintenance and infrastructure as an engineer/planner. E. Bunnell agreed, but said it is not happening. M. Bernstein asked about the possibility of using a consultant and also

what the Director is actually doing and how his work is divided. J. Healy said a consultant could be a bigger waste of money as they are temporary and have no responsibility for day-to-day operations. Operations should be managed by a person who is an employee of the Town. He felt very strongly that the position is needed and should remain funded. L. Paul agreed and said it is a management position that is critical because there were projects on the books with no movement until there was someone to manage them. The decision should be made on the position and not the person. This position supports weekly contact with the State on bridge projects, contractors, and bidding processes. The Supervisor is busy with the actual road work and cannot handle it all. Cynthia Politano, Finance Director, said she certainly hopes they will be able to continue to obtain capital money to maintain the infrastructure of the Town. She said the Director of Public Works is doing that now and also writes RFP's and manages contracts instead of hiring someone. **Vote on Amendment:** Upon voting on the amendment, W. Dranginis voted aye, E. Bunnell abstained, and L. Paul, J. Healy and M. Bernstein voted nay. Motion failed. M. Bernstein said she hopes to have a better understanding of what she is voting on next year. J. Healy thought, in view of the Board's reluctance in its vote, the Board needs to continue to study the position. E. Bunnell said he is starting to see the need for someone in that position. **Motion:** J. Healy motioned to move the question and M. Bernstein seconded. All voted aye and the motion passed. **Vote on Original Motion:** Upon voting, all voted aye to adopt the 2008/2009 budget as presented, except W. Dranginis, who voted nay; motion carried.

**New Business:** a) **Proclamation – Charles Goslee:** **Motion:** J. Healy moved to waive the reading of the proclamation and E. Bunnell seconded. All voted aye and the motion passed. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to approve the proclamation commending Charles Goslee on his 50 years of service to the Bantam Fire Company. J. Healy seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Correspondence:** a) **1/29/08 Letter – W. Harrison:** Received and noted  
b) **1/11/08 Letter – A. Landau:** Received and noted

**Motion:** J. Healy moved to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. and W. Dranginis seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman